



# THE LEADER

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Sept. 5, 2003



Col. Mark Ramsay assumes command  
of the 319th Air Refueling Wing

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319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

## Inside: From the front

### Weekend weather

Today	78/53	Sunny
Saturday	87/54	Mostly sunny
Sunday	78/51	Mostly sunny
Monday	84/70	Partly Cloudy



Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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## In the name of defense

Page 4



## Are you ready for football?

Page 17





# Afghanistan: *Still a frontier*

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
U.S. Central Air Force Public Affairs  
Southwest Asia

I just recently returned from a trip to a deployed location in Afghanistan. It's a base that serves as the hub for activity for Operation Enduring Freedom in the country.

What I saw when I stepped off the plane wasn't much – simply because it was dark outside and just after 4 a.m. It really wasn't one of those experiences that hits you immediately but one that still has an impact.

The group I was with flew in on a C-130 Hercules. It was my first flight on the plane and surely one I'll never forget. Not that a C-130 is a bad ride – I thought it was just fine. The trip was more unforgettable in the fact that it was my first flight in the plane, and I was also flying to a place I had never been to before.

After the plane landed and parked, I was the first person down the ramp at the back of the plane following a maintenance airman as he led us on foot to the Bagram terminal and "welcome center."

"How are you doing today, sergeant?" the airman asked me in his politest tone as we walked in a line behind him with his little blue light.

"Not too bad. I love your weather here," I said. "I haven't felt this nice dry air in weeks."

"Yeah, I know what you mean," he said.

When we got on the plane to leave, the temperature and humidity at my base were so high you would literally sweat without moving. As we walked off the plane at the deployed base some five hours later, the feeling was that of relief.

Once we got into the terminal, we did a check-in at the counter. There were approximately 60 to 80 Army personnel who were sitting, lying and standing around waiting for their flight to wherever they were going. The room was littered with desert camouflage and green military bags.

We weren't in the terminal very long when we were brought over to our guest tents – or as they say in deployment terms, "transient quarters." Before we went to bed though, we went on a hike to see where the dining hall was and the general direction of everything else. Basically, they were telling us this location is a place where you do a lot of walking.

On the march back, one of our guides who met us at the terminal, Lt. Col. Douglas Lefforge, deputy director of Combined Joint Task Force 180 Public Affairs, told us if we left to go anywhere to make sure we had our firearm with us.

"Don't leave home without it," he said, stealing the old American Express credit card catch phrase.

Within 10 minutes, most of us made our way to our respective sleeping areas to get a couple hours of rest. Some people weren't able to sleep on the plane, so



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

**A destroyed tank sits idle in an Afghanistan field. These remnants of war can be seen strewn all across the area's landscape.**

they were having a rougher time than others.

After waking up and getting ready, everyone split off with their respective parties. Our group went with Col. Lefforge to some meetings and then to a waiting car where he brought four of us on a tour around the base. It was during that tour that things really started to hit home about the base and country. In our drive around, we saw old junked out pieces of military hardware that formerly belonged to the Soviet Union, our Cold War enemy.

When you see something like that, all you can think of is the fuzzy television images in 1979 when the Soviets invaded the country. It was an occupation that lasted until 1988 and some call the Soviet's Afghan

**– See AFGHANISTAN, Page 3**



## Action Line

747-4522

*The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.*

*For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message.*

**12**

DWI-free  
Days



**Col. Mark Ramsay**  
319th Air Refueling Wing  
commander

## Editorial staff

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## Special Interest

### – AFGHANISTAN, from Page 2

War – the “Russian Vietnam.” After the Soviets pulled out in 1988, the country struggled with civil war and strife until 1996 when the Taliban took power of the country and began their oppressive policies.

It was between 1996 and 2001 when the Taliban government began harboring terrorists and helping form terrorist training camps with Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda. However, when Sept. 11, 2001, happened, that was all about to change.

Before the end of 2001, the Taliban were toppled from power and a coalition of forces, led by Americans in Operation Enduring Freedom, have been there ever since.

But the war is not yet won. Just like the land mine sweeper you see going around the outskirts of the base every day, the war to win the peace in Afghanistan will continue for years to come. The difference the American and coalition presence makes there is truly remarkable and progress is being made.

On our way back to my base, we sat in a C-130 once again looking out the back on the flightline. But this time it was daytime. There we saw a C-17 Globemaster III pull up right behind us and park.

All I could think is, “Man, what a beautiful sight.” That C-17, at that moment to me, was a symbol of freedom for the Afghani people. As it brought in needed supplies and troops, it also meant it was bringing more sta-

bility to the country.

In a place where some say it’s been “bombed back to the stone age,” Afghans still walk around with AK-47 machine guns. They are still fighting the Taliban, and we are there with them.

Sure, the country is war-torn, and no one would argue that point. But if you visit or stay there, you will see it is more like a frontier – a frontier for the people of Afghanistan to finally experience freedom.

We’re there to stay however long it takes. As President Bush said about the



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol*

**The American flag flies high in Afghanistan, but the war in the country still wages on.**

War on Terrorism – “We will not fail.” That is certainly true in Afghanistan.

We’re winning the peace every day we’re there. I know it, because I saw it first hand.

# Bollard Defense System operational by October

**By 2nd Lt. Erik Thompson**  
319th Security Forces Squadron

A lot of people have been asking questions about the construction going on at the gates the past few months.

The 319th Air Refueling Wing has gone to great lengths to increase the safety of the base populace by installing the Bollard Defense System, which is scheduled to be fully operational by October.

These bollards were installed to satisfy Air Force physical security and force protection standards. The bottom line is this could ultimately save valuable lives and resources.

The Bollard Defense System is designed for controlling the normal flow of authorized vehicle traffic during increased force protection conditions yet has the capacity in emergency situations to stop and disable a fast moving vehicle. The system consists of several vertical lift bollards that operate independently. These cylindrical steel columns are hydraulically powered and activated from a control panel which has been strategically placed to prevent accidental engagement.

Several safety devices are interfaced with the bollard system to preclude accidental engagement. The system is also equipped to perform internal safety checks preventing the bollards from rising on their own. Red and yellow traffic lights indicate to the driver of a vehicle the current operation mode of the bollards.

Blinking yellow traffic lights are placed approximately 200 feet before the barriers to get drivers' attention and alert them that they are approaching the bollards. Blinking red traffic lights, located next to the bollards, will illuminate when the bollards are preparing to rise. A steady red light will illuminate when the bollards begin to rise and will remain red for the duration they are in the full up position.

The normal operating speed for the bollards to fully rise will be approximately 10 seconds while emergency up

speed will be significantly faster.

These safety features are great, but as we all know, everybody entering and exiting the installation is responsible to act in a safe manner. Safety tips to remember when entering and exiting the installation include obeying all posted speed limits. The posted speed limit 200 feet on either side of the bollards is 15 miles per hour. This speed limit will be strictly enforced and provides all vehicle operators ample time to stop their vehicle should they see the red flashing light. Second, always be aware of your surroundings and pay particular attention to the lights around the bollards. Finally, proceed with caution.

All security forces personnel will be fully trained on operational procedures. The bollards will only be activated upon the order of the security forces flight chief, higher competent authority, or when the installation entry controller perceives that there is an imminent threat to the safety of the base populace.

It is important to re-emphasize the importance of driving safety. Driver's need to remain aware of their surroundings, pay close attention to traffic lights around the bollards and obey all posted speed limits.



*Courtesy photo*

**The Bollard Defense System has been installed at the base gates and is scheduled to be fully operational by October.**



# Clarification of AFI 36-2903

*New, more detailed instruction due later this month*

**By 2nd Lt. Amber Greenwalt**  
Customer Support chief

Air Force Instruction 36-2903 lacks specific guidance on uniform issues in many areas.

There is a new AFI 36-2903 due later this month with more detail than the current one. Until then, it is important too pass along some information that customer support has gathered from higher headquarters to answer uniform wear questions.

As with all uniform issues, any questions should be addressed to the Military Personnel Flight customer service desk at 747-4902.

General guidance for uniform wear include:

▶ **Long-sleeved blue shirt** – In accordance with AFI 36-2903, Tables 2.1 and 2.3, Line 2 – Wear of the tie and tab is mandatory with the long-sleeved blue shirt. When wearing the long-sleeved blue shirt under

the pullover sweater or the cardigan, the tie and tab are optional. However, if the sweater or cardigan is taken off and the long-sleeved blue shirt is worn underneath, the tie and tab are mandatory.

▶ **Gortex liner (black polar tec)** – This liner is to be worn with the gortex parka and not as a jacket by itself (when in uniform).

▶ **Gortex parka rank insignia** – Officer and enlisted members will wear the slide-on cloth rank insignia.

▶ **Battle Dress Uniform shirts** – As indicated in AFI 36-2903, Tables 2.2 and 2.4, Line 1 – BDU shirts may be removed in the immediate work area. This means BDU shirts may only be removed in the immediate work area.

▶ **Service coat name tag** – Will be worn on the right side centered between the arm seam and lapel with the bottom of the name tag even with the bottom row of ribbons. Mandatory wear date is Jan.1, 2004.

▶ **Uniform travel guidance** – Effective immediately, the Air Mobilit Command commander has reinstated the policy established in October, 2002, directing all AMC personnel wear any combination of the blue service uniform with the tie and tab when traveling on duty-related, “CONUS only” commercial flights.

## Sept. 11 victims remembered

**Compiled by staff reports**

The base will hold a retreat ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in front of the wing headquarters building in memory of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Uniform wear will be uniform of the day.

Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, will be the guest speaker for this event with Capt. Robert Champion serving as the master of ceremonies.

The program is scheduled to last until 4:30 p.m. and will conclude with a flyover.

## OPSEC tip of the week

By being a military family member, you may know bits of information.

Do not discuss them outside of your immediate family and especially over the telephone.

# Master sergeant remembered

**By Airman 1st Class Cassandra J. Locke**  
43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AMCNS)** – A fighting loadmaster lost the battle against cancer before he was to be presented a mural in his name for his dedication and accomplishments.

Master Sgt. Gary Chancellor passed away Aug. 22 in his sleep less than a week before his 42nd birthday.

“He was ready to meet the Lord,” said retired Master Sgt. Henry Britton, a close friend of Sgt. Chancellor.

In December 1999, a lump formed between Sgt. Chancellor’s cheek and gum and he woke up not knowing what it was. A biopsy showed it was cancer.

He then went to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington and had three surgeries. His jaw was pulled out while the cancer was chiseled out of it. The doctors thought they had removed the cancer. After six months of surgeries and treatments, Sgt. Chancellor was ready to go back to work.

He deployed to Southwest Asia in March 2001, but soon after, lost feeling in his neck and head. He knew something was wrong and made arrangements to come home.

When he returned to the U.S. he was tested and his situation had worsened. He still had cancer.

He went back to Walter Reed and found out cancer cells had dislodged and traveled to his head and attached to his brain stem. That blocked his nerve pathways.

Doctors gave him three months to live. Ever the fighter, he opted an experimental surgery in Boston called proton radiation therapy.

While waiting to go through the treatment, he was assigned to the 43rd Operations Support Squadron training section and was in charge of the C-130 Part Task Trainer, also known as the HULK.

He worked directly with Army airborne units to increase the usage of the trainer. He developed a rapport with Army paratroopers and increased HULK usage more than 100 percent while decreasing the need for an actual flight line airframe to zero, according to Senior Master Sgt. Alex Madrigal, 43rd Operations Group.

His program came to life and new loadmasters began training there on a regular basis.

“His commitment to the HULK trainer has ensured Pope loadmasters, maintenance personnel, aerial port transporters and Fort Bragg Army paratroopers have one of the best training facilities in the Air Force,” said Sgt. Madrigal.

Sgt. Chancellor continued therapy in Boston for four



**This mural was created for Master Sgt. Gary Chancellor.**

months. The cancer was gone, but the right side of his face was paralyzed.

The treatment damaged the cranial nerves on the right side of Sgt. Chancellor’s head. He had lost all feeling from his right shoulder up. To help him close his right eye, doctors sewed a gold bar into his eyelid.

Once Sgt. Chancellor’s treatment was completed, his doctors thought he had beat the cancer. His next challenge was to be placed back on flight status. In the meantime he was reassigned to the 2nd AS as the first sergeant. While the medical professionals decided

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### – REMEMBERED, from Page 6

whether or not to let him fly again, he remained active with HULK scheduling and training.

He was permitted to go back on flying status and then deployed to Southwest Asia once again in October 2002. While deployed, in January 2003, he lost hearing in his right ear. He was then sent back to the United States. Still, in July the career airman re-enlisted in the Air Force.

Once home, Sgt. Chancellor underwent two months of radiation treatment at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina. The treatments were to help stop the progression of the radiation damage.

Sgt. Chancellor officially retired from service with the Air Force Aug. 19. His mural presentation was scheduled for Aug. 22, the morning he died. Despite his absence, the presentation was carried out.

“He’s got the best seat in the house,” said Mr. Britton while giving his remarks.

Sgt. Chancellor will be remembered as being the walking example

of the “Little Blue Book,” the basic guide to Air Force core values.

“The Air Force’s core values truly describe him perfectly,” said Master Sgt. Fred Hall, 41st AS. “He not only believed them, but lived them.”

He will also be remembered as having a smile on his face when coming off his aircraft after a 14 or more hour shift. “It wasn’t just once in a while, it was all the time,” said Sgt. Hall.

“He mentored all future aviators whether they were officers or enlisted,” said Lt. Col. John Romero, 2nd AS commander.

To those who knew Sgt. Chancellor, he was a motivational senior noncommissioned officer and was defined as a leader, not a manager.

“He would never ask you to do something he would not do himself,” said Staff Sgt. Lino Gato, 41st AS.

The presentation closed with a loadmaster saying, “Praise the load,” and followed by a “hooah,” which was written in Sgt. Chancellor’s mural. It was dedicated to “the man who does not know the meaning of the word quit.”

# AMC announces 2003 leadership award winners

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. (AMCNS)** – Air Mobility Command recently announced the command’s nominees for the Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award. The nominees by category are:

► **Senior officer – Lt. Col. Mark S. Hershman, 7th Airlift Squadron, McChord AFB, Wash.**

Col. Hershman’s exemplary leadership resulted in successful prosecution of the largest combat heavy equipment drop, in the largest C-17A formation, during the largest nighttime single-pass airdrop since the D-Day invasion of World War II. This resulted in the successful insertion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade into Northern Iraq.

► **Junior officer – Capt. Todd M. Graham, 89th Civil Engineering Squadron, Andrews AFB, Md.**

Capt. Graham creatively led teams bringing significant infrastructure improvements to Andrews AFB, supporting deployed operations at al Udeid Air Base, and establishing numerous benchmarks now used throughout AMC.

► **Senior enlisted – Master Sgt. Robert W. Traynor, 92nd Aeromedical Dental Squadron, Fairchild AFB, Wash.**

Sgt. Traynor’s work to build a disaster and contingency response team with representatives from the 92nd Medical Group, Fairchild Fire Department, Spokane County, American Medical Response, and the Regional Disaster Control Center, placed Fairchild AFB at its highest disaster response readiness state to date.

► **Junior enlisted – Tech. Sgt. Christopher R. May, 305th CES, McGuire AFB, N.J.**

Sgt. May’s leadership of two 43-person facility teams covering two work zones with a \$500,000 budget resulted in superb renovations, efficient maintenance, and timely emergency service across McGuire AFB.

The Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award, named in honor of the late Capt. Lance P. Sijan, an Air Force Academy graduate and combat pilot, provides recognition for officer and enlisted leaders who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their personal conduct and performance of duties.

# Airmen patrol enemy's side of wire

**By Staff Sgt. Russell Wicke**  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group  
Public Affairs

**DEPLOYED LOCATION (AFPN)** – In a hot and dusty Afghani valley, there is land scarred with land mines and tied down with concertina wire fences separating American heroes from terrorists.

The environment alone is hostile, featuring sweltering summers and bone-chilling winters. The habitat is a haven for venomous creatures and thorny vegetation. All this is merely a supplement to the real enemy who lurks outside the base perimeter.

This deployed location, once a den of terrorist groups like the Taliban, is now a base of operations for U.S. and coalition forces. Among the hustle of daily operations to kill and capture terrorist forces here, one unit lies silent behind the scenes, ensuring security for base operations.

While the Air Force security forces are often taken for granted, their absence could be deadly for many supporting the war effort here, said Master Sgt. Steven Lundy, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent.

“We provide a secure environment for our jets on the flightline and people within the Air Force compound by keeping our eyes (open) and our weapons up,” Sgt. Lundy said. “We also work with the Army to help provide a layer of protection on the outer perimeter of the base.”

Tech. Sgt. Eddie Blackmon, a 455th ESFS flight chief, said their whole job here is security, unlike their primary job of law enforcement back at home stations.

“The Army is responsible for all the law enforcement here because this is mainly an Army installation,” Sgt. Blackmon said.

Since air operations began in November 2001, the two services have worked together well.

“My experience working with the Army here is extremely positive,” said Staff Sgt. Alan Clontz, 455th ESFS security response team leader. “They are

interested in working with the Air Force security forces as a team instead of (as) two autonomous units. If nothing else, I’d like the opportunity to train more with the Army.”

Although some airmen said training with soldiers would be ideal, they are settling for the next best thing: Fighting alongside them. That includes doing random daily patrols outside the wire, according to Senior Airman Jodi Brown, a 455th ESFS M-60 machine gun operator.

“We assist the Army by providing an extra set of eyes on what goes on right off base,” she said. “Many times you don’t know if the alleged goat herder right outside the wire isn’t really gathering intelligence on us.”

Watching the suspicious activity on the edge of the base is more hazardous than it may sound.

“There are land mines everywhere from past wars,” said Staff Sgt. Victor Guzman, 455th ESFS trainer. “When you’re out doing a perimeter check in an armored Humvee, the small, thick windows restrict your vision. So when it’s dark outside and you have night-vision goggles on, your field of vision is reduced that much more. If you veer off the road just a little bit, it’s likely you’ll find a mine.”

Yet deadly threats are not limited to the base perimeter. Rocket attacks are a common threat to those on the inside, Sgt. Guzman said.

“When there’s a rocket attack, most everybody else is running for a bunker, but it is our job to go out and meet the threat,” he said.

Because combat environments like this leave little room for error, Sgt. Guzman said he believes strong non-commissioned officer leadership among security forces is crucial.

“When we come down hard on our people, it is for their own good,” he said. “There are a lot of airmen here who can’t stand me, but they know how to operate their weapons, and they know their drills. (These) will save their life.”



# Briefs

## Network 56

Network 56 is an opportunity for junior noncommissioned officers and staff sergeant-selects to get together and discuss supervisory, leadership and management concerns, and pass on experience and knowledge.

Network 56 meets the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18 at the Northern Lights Club.

## New parking signs

Drivers around base may have noticed new parking signs. The new signs in parking lots around the base has been created in an effort to bring the base into compliance with standoff issues while decreasing its reliance on orange cones.

Some areas close to critical facilities have now been designated as no parking zones.

The signs are up and will be enforced by security forces.

For details on the parking plan or its enforcement, call security forces at 747-5351, or 2nd Lt. Kass Larson at 747-6371.

## AMXS Spouses' Support Group

The 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Spouses' Support Group will meet Monday at 7 p.m. at Prairie Rose Chapel. Spaghetti dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

For details, call Mrs. Jeannette Lewis at 594-8510.

## Checkbook management

The Family Support Center is holding a checkbook management course from 9 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Individuals may bring their personal information including checkbook register and bank statement to accomplish after the course while the instructor is available to assist.

For details, call the FSC at 747-3241.

## Hispanic, Native-American heritage month committees

The Military Equal Opportunity Office is looking for volunteers to help out with events during Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, and Native-American Heritage

Month in November. Committees are open to all base personnel.

These observances are wing events, and volunteers will receive appropriate recognition.

For details, call Master Sgt. Gary Cleland at 747-3200.

## Thrift Savings Plan

Thrift Savings Plan participants ages 50 and older are now eligible to make a new type of tax-deferred contribution to the TSP. These "catch-up" contributions are in addition to regular TSP contributions.

Participants are eligible if they are a federal employee or members of the uniformed services who will be 50 or older this calendar year and are already contributing the maximum amount of regular TSP contributions (eight percent of basic pay).

This year, eligible participants may invest up to \$2,000 in catch-up contributions. The amount will increase to \$3,000 in 2004, \$4,000 in 2005, and \$5,000 in 2006. Servicemembers can elect to make catch-up contributions immediately.

To begin making contributions, complete form TSP-U-I-C, which can be obtained from the TSP Website at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

For details, call Capt. Rich Stacey at 747-4817.

## OEF tickets

Operation Enduring Friendship is offering a limited number of free tickets to the "Always... Patsy Cline" show at the Grand Forks Central High School theater to active duty members and their families for 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday.

Tickets may be picked up at the Family Support Center on a first come, first serve basis.

The FSC can not reserve or hold any tickets.

For details, call Ms. Judy Box at 747-6435.

## Tobacco cessation

The Health and Wellness Center is holding its next tobacco cessation class at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the HAWC conference room

For details, call the HAWC at 747-5546.



# Base chapel

**CATHOLIC:**

**Mass:** 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

**Daily mass:** 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sunflower Chapel.

**Reconciliation:** 4:30 to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

**CCD registration:** Children age 3 as of Sunday through high school.

**Adult education, sacramental programs:** Call Mrs. Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

**PROTESTANT:**

**Combined worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

**Parish Rally Day picnic:** Noon Sunday, at the new pavilion across from Barnes Hall.

**Young adults:** 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain Swain’s home, 747-4359.

**Men of the Chapel bible study:** Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room.

Protestant Sunday School classes begin Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. Classes are held at Eielson Elementary School for ages 3 and older. There will be a toddler room for children 3-years-old and younger to assist parents attending or teaching classes. Buses will run in the housing areas beginning Sept. 21. Registration takes place after chapel services or by visiting Prairie Rose Chapel during duty hours. Volunteers are needed to teach and drive bus. For details, call Mrs. Carol Shower at 747-3071, or 775-0717 during the evening.

**JEWISH:**

For details, call Mrs. Sheila Farquharson, 594-3960, or Synagogue B’nai Israel, 775-5124.

**RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:**

For details, call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540.

**MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:**

For details, call 747-5673.



# Base theater

**Today, 7 p.m.**

***Pirates of the Caribbean:***

***The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13)***

Aboard the Black Pearl, infamous pirate Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) attacks the city of Port Royal and kidnaps a governor’s daughter, Elizabeth (Keira Knightley).

Barbossa then sets sail with his hostage toward a secret hideaway, hoping to lift an ancient curse by sacrificing her and returning a once-plundered treasure.

**Saturday, 7 p.m.**

***Lara Croft: Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (PG-13)***

Angelina Jolie plays Lara Croft, the video-game vixen brought to the big screen in the first Tomb Raider film. Croft travels across the world in hopes of finding an ancient underwater temple called the Cradle of Life.

**Today, 7 p.m.**

***Seabiscuit (PG-13)***

**Tickets:** \$1.50 children, \$3 adults  
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

# People first, then mission

*Wing commander pledges to take care of all airmen*



**By Col. Mark Ramsay**

319th Air Refueling Wing commander

These past two years have been the most trying times in America's 227-year history. Yet, as a member of the world's greatest and most respected air force, we have a duty to the citizens of our great country to carry out the difficult task of providing unequaled service to our nation.

It is a task that you have proven

capable of in operations the world over, and I am confident you will continue to excel with the professionalism and excellence that have been the hallmark of the Warriors of the North.

As your new commander, I have two major areas that I will focus on during my tenure at Grand Forks Air Force Base.

My first priority is our people. Taking care of all our airmen is my utmost priority and should be the priority of everyone serving in our armed forces.

Regardless of rank or position, we should all back each other when times are rough, as well as rejoice as one when times are good. Together we will focus on leading, mentoring, recognizing, awarding, and rewarding our hard-charging airmen and civilians.

Second, I will focus on ensuring the Warriors of the North have the right training, tools and resources to get the mission done right. The mission to provide rapid global mobility and expeditionary combat support is challenging and transforming. On any give day, our

KC-135's are called upon to provide vital fuel to coalition aircraft of all types and provide airlift for troops and cargo anywhere in the world.

Recently, our tankers began taking on another mission – medical evacuation of wounded airmen, soldiers and marines as a result of the retirement of the C-9 Nightingale fleet.

With this new mission, our KC-135's are now called upon to provide every form of operational mobility capability except airdrop.

Equally as important is our expeditionary combat support airmen fighting the global war against terrorism. Nevertheless, I am certain if we continue to focus on people as a team, our ability to accomplish our wing mission will grow as well.

In the coming weeks as I tour around the base and visit your individual work areas, I am looking forward to meeting and serving with all of you.

I pledge to do my absolute best to take care of you, your family and our mission as we help shape and build the world's greatest Air Force.

Godspeed, and "Let's Roll!"

It's **YOUR**  
Air Force  
With your  
**IDEAS,**  
we do things...

- ♦ **FASTER**
- ♦ **BETTER**
- ♦ **CHEAPER**

## *We will never forget Sept. 11*

**By Sarah Anne Carter**

Air Force Materiel Command  
Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON  
AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio  
(AFPN)** – "I, Sarah Anne  
Carter ..."

The pictures are considered stock photography by most news organizations now. They use the photos today to emphasize a news event, usually involving terrorism. Yet, every time I stumble upon a picture from Sept. 11, 2001, I pause.

"... having been appointed to government civil service in the United States Air Force ..."

My current position doesn't quite show how loyal to the Air Force and my country I am.

I was born at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., to a young airman and his wife. I grew up on military installations across the United States and in several foreign countries.

And now that I've grown up, I'm working for the Air Force.

"... do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; ..."

My first day of permanent civil service, I took the oath. And it truly meant something.

When I went to work on Sept. 11, 2001, evil men were plotting to destroy the lives of hundreds of innocent people.

And then the terrorists got personal. They hijacked a plane and directed it straight toward the Pentagon where my father was sitting in his blue uniform serving his country.

"... that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter. ..."

Many hours were spent that morning wondering how many members of my family would be alive at the end of the day.

My mother and brother were in Washington, D.C. I received several panicked phone calls from my mother who was wondering where her husband might be and when her son might be able to get home from a local high school.

"... SO HELP ME GOD."

Each minute that morning seemed to last forever. And then the phone rang, and I heard my father's voice.

Sept. 11, 2001 – we will never forget.



# New commander rallies airmen



(Above) Col. Mark Ramsay gives his speech following his assumption of command of the 319th Air Refueling Wing.  
(Right) Outgoing 319th ARW commander Col. Keye Sabol salutes the group flights as Col. Steve Wayne, 319th ARW vice commander, follows.

By 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro  
Public Affairs

Amidst a sea of green and blue onlookers, Col. Mark Ramsay assumed command of the 319th Air Refueling Wing from Col. Keye Sabol during a ceremony presided over by Maj. Gen. John D. Becker, 15th Air Force commander at the three-bay hanger here Wednesday.

Col. Ramsay takes command of a wing that was the first to respond in support after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, led the way in deployments in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and set record flying hours in 2002 and 2003. The 319th ARW was also recognized as the best active duty wing in 15th Air Force, best super tanker wing in the Air Force, and was the only tanker wing to win the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 2002 all under Col. Sabol's leadership.

"Since the day Col. Sabol took command, the men and women of Team Grand Forks has routinely gone beyond operational excellence in setting the standard for 15th Air Force and for the command," said Maj. Gen. Becker. "In (Col. Ramsay), I have found exactly the right combination of commander and aviator who has the knowledge, energy, drive, and enthusiasm to build on the amazing accomplishments of the 319th."

Before assuming command of the 319th ARW, Col. Ramsay proved his leadership as the commander of the 89th Operations Group in Andrews AFB, MD.

His other positions include serving as Chief of Programs and Mobility Division at Headquarters U.S. European Command, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at Headquarters U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon, and squadron commander of the 98th Air Refueling Squadron in Fairchild AFB. He is also a command pilot with over 4,700 hours in the C-9A Nightingale, C-20, KC-135 Stratotanker, and UH-1 Huey helicopter.

Upon taking command of the 319th Col. Ramsay, cited the Warriors of the North's magnificent response to all the challenges since Sept. 11 and rallied the troops with a phrase made famous by the late Todd Beamer, from United Flight 93, "Let's Roll!"

"Together, we will build on our excellent mission readiness and become broader expeditionary air mobility and combat support experts to handle any future national security challenge," said Col. Ramsay.

Col. Sabol's service here also included a position as deployed commander of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing in the AOR, where he commanded active duty, guard, and reserve forces with a 100 percent mission success rate with zero safety

mishaps. His farewell was highlighted by a presentation of the Legion of Merit award for all his accomplishments while serving as commander of the 319th ARW.

Along with the men and women of 319th, Col. Sabol also cited the support of his family and the Grand Forks community for his success.

"From day one, the Grand Cities have opened their arms to Carol and I. You have become our extended family," said Col. Sabol. "You have been with us every step of the way... thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Col. Sabol's parting words for the Warriors of the North was, "Let there be no doubt, when the world cried for our nation to provide leadership... you did not waiver. You led the charge and for that, I salute you!"



(Above) Col. Wayne leads the base Honor Guard during the Change-of-Command ceremony on base Wednesday.

(Left) Col. Ramsay, 319th ARW commander, now wears four new scarves.





# Community

## Today

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club special is steak and stuffed shrimp for \$9.95 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The Frontier Grill menu is also available.

## Saturday

**WARRIOR BIKE RACE:** Outdoor Recreation is sponsoring a bike race from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration for adults 17 and older is \$10 before the race and \$15 the day of the race.

The race will be held rain or shine and is open to the public. There are two courses; one for novice riders and another for competitive riders. Riders must have a helmet and a bicycle.

If interested participants don't own a bicycle they can rent one from Outdoor Recreation.

For details, call Outdoor Recreation at 747-3368.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM PARTY:** There is a summer reading program party for the participants of the Youth Programs "Read by Mail" program and the Library's "Soar into reading" program.

The party will be held at Liberty Square from 1 to 3 p.m.

The party will include free skating and an awards presentation at 2 p.m. The snack bar will be open.

**CLUB KARAOKE:** The Northern Lights Club offers Karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

**CLUB DANCING:** The Northern Lights Club offers dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. to 'club mix' music with "DJ 'C.'"

**YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING:** Register at the youth center for galaxy bowling at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 to 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 to 15 from 8 to 10 p.m.

## Sunday

**SUNDAY BRUNCH:** The Northern Lights club is serving brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## Monday

**FOOTBALL FRENZY:** The Northern Lights Club is offering football frenzy. Come watch the Monday Night Football game and win prizes.

## Tuesday

**TORCH CLUB:** There is a Torch Club meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Youth Center. Torch clubs are small group clubs offering service and leadership opportunities to youth ages 11 to 13.

**KEYSTONE CLUB:** Keystone club meetings are today from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Youth Center. Keystone Clubs are for Boys and Girls Club members ages 14 to 18.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The 319th Air Refueling Wing, in conjunction with Dak-Min Blood Bank, will sponsor a blood drive at the Prairie Rose Chapel Annex from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Informational sheets explaining requirements and restrictions for donating, and registration forms are available at the Family Support Center. Pre-regis-

tration information can be emailed directly to [blooddonations@altru.org](mailto:blooddonations@altru.org).

For details call, 1st Lt. Edward Bunce at 747-5392.

## Wednesday

**BOATER SAFETY:** This course is required if you plan to rent motorized watercraft from Outdoor Recreation.

Also, North Dakota law requires persons 12 to 15 to pass an approved boating

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# Community

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course if they operate motorboats propelled by motors over 10 horsepower (includes personal watercraft). Class is from 6 to 9 p.m. and is free; please sign up at Outdoor Recreation.

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights club is offering a free dessert with the purchase of an entree from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**FINE ARTS PROGRAM:** The next fine arts program class is today at the Youth Center. The fine arts program is held every Wednesday of the month during the school year.

The program is meant to provide Northern Lights Club members with the opportunities to create works of art for display in a local exhibit.

The goal is to help youth to uncover their artistic talents and motivate them to develop their creative skills and possibly explore related career opportunities.

Youth ages 6 to 12 are at 6:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 8 p.m. A qualified instructor will be present. This is a free event.

## Thursday

**CLUB DINING:** The Northern Lights Club is offering a half-price children's menu from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**MOMS AND BABIES:** Moms and Babies will be using the Prairie Rose Chapel from 10 a.m. to Noon until construction is complete on the Sunflower Chapel.

For details, call Mrs. Peggy Littlefield at 747-6806.

## Upcoming

**WINTER HOURS:** Skills Development Center winter hours are in effect as of Sept. 1:

Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it is closed Sundays, holiday weekends and goal days.

**TEACHING OPPORTUNITY:** The Skills Development Center is looking for contract instructors to help with fall programs.

For details, call Karen at 747-3481.



Photo by Mrs. Christine Davis

## All tore up

Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, tears the ticket to mark the grand opening of the University of North Dakota Operation Enduring Friendship ticketmaster booth at the Family Support Center with help from (left) Mr. Roger Thomas, the UND athletic director, and (right) Mr. Phil Harmeson, the senior associate to the president's office at UND.

**CATALOGS:** The Skills Development Center has catalogs available to order special order art prints. "Air Bridge I, II and III" mini prints for framing are available but supplies are limited.

**GALLERY:** Stop by the consignment gallery at the Skills Development Center and view the handcrafted items made by local residents.

### BIRD WATCHING:

Outdoor Recreation has binoculars and bird books that help participants get started watching birds.

Outdoor Recreation also offers advice on the best areas for viewing the different species.

### CAMPER, BOAT REGISTRATION:

Reservations for boats and campers can be made one month prior to the month needed for the equipment.

Boat and camper reservations require a nonfundable deposit of \$20 for a weekend and \$40 for a week or longer.

**KIDDIE KAMPUS:** There are openings in the morning and afternoon classes of Kiddie Kampus (Part Day enrichment).

For details, call the Child Development Center at 747-3042.



# Best offense is great defense

## *OSS uses turnovers, mistakes to upend LRS, 34-6*

**By Airman Patrice Clarke**  
Public Affairs

The saying goes “the offense gets the glory, but the defense wins the game.” That was certainly apparent Wednesday night when the 319th Operations Support Squadron stopped the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron 34-6 in an intramural flag football contest on base.

The game started on a bad note for OSS when they were flagged for a penalty on the first play of the game. That was just about the worst that happened to OSS Wednesday however, as they came back strong, driving the length of the field for a touchdown and quick 7-0 lead.

Unfortunately for LRS, their mistakes compounded one another. On their first possession of the game, the LRS center snapped the ball over quarterback Jonathon Schmechel’s head resulting in a fumble. OSS recovered the loose ball and returned it for a touchdown. Following the extra point, OSS had a 14-0 lead.

On LRS next possession, Schmechel couldn’t escape the OSS loss and was sacked for a loss. However, a combination of great plays made by Aaron Simmons and Ron Clinton turned into an LRS touchdown and cut

the OSS lead to 14-6. The celebration would prove to be short-lived.

Matt Wireman, OSS defensive back, would not allow LRS to bask in the glory of their only touchdown. He intercepted the pass on the extra point and followed with a touchdown on the ensuing drive.

LRS tried to move the ball for a second time, but Wireman was in position to pick off the pass again which resulted in yet another OSS touchdown, and built the OSS lead to 28-6.

After halftime, LRS’ defense went to work. Justin McIntosh sacked Tommy Morgan on a fourth down to give LRS its best starting field position of the game. The LRS offense tried to come back with big yardage plays by Jason Vike and Schmechel.

Their luck veered toward the worse again though when the center again snapped the over Schmechel’s head, causing a fumble that was recovered by OSS.

OSS turned that fumble into

another touchdown, but failed to convert the extra point, bringing the score 34-6.

Mistakes made by LRS caused OSS to gain possession of the ball one final time. Strong running by Milton Carrell allowed OSS to run out the clock and preserve the 34-6 victory.



## Annual Air Force Ball events

### ► Ball auction

6 p.m. tonight at the Northern Lights Club.

To donate, call Mr. Darryl Williams at 594-2999.

View auction items at [http://gra.midco.net/gfafb\\_ball/2003.htm](http://gra.midco.net/gfafb_ball/2003.htm)

### ► Air Force Ball

Sept. 20 at the Alerus Center.

### ► Tickets

E-1 through E-4 – \$18.

E-5 through E-6 and up to GS-9 – \$20.

E-7 through E-9, GS-10 and higher, O-1 and higher, and all civilians – \$25.

Spouses – same price as sponsor.

Ticket prices increase \$5 per ticket after Monday.

Contact your unit First Sergeant for details.